

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
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illustrates the attachment of vertical utilities manager 112 to an associated post 3 using T-fasteners 100 in a manner similar to the mounting of top side in-fill panel bracket 101 to post 3. Fig. 33 illustrates the attachment of a horizontal utilities manager 113 to the upper face of an associated beam 2 using T-fasteners 100 in a manner similar to the mounting of top center in-fill panel bracket 111 to the lower face of beam 2.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel claims 2, 3, 4, 46 and 47 without prejudice.

Kindly amend claims 1, 28 and 45 to read as follows.

-1- (Amended)

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A post and beam furniture system for partitioning open office space, and the like, comprising:

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a plurality of overhead beams, each having opposite ends;

a plurality of vertical posts, each having a lower portion thereof adapted to be abuttingly supported on a floor surface of the open office space, an upper portion thereof adapted to be connected with an associated one of said overhead beams and at least one outwardly extending flange, having an end face with a single vertical slot extending centrally therealong;

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a plurality of beam-to-post connectors attached to said opposite ends of said beams, and detachably retained in said slot in said posts for mounting said beams on said posts; and wherein

said slot has a generally T-shaped cross-sectional configuration with an enlarged interior track portion and a reduced neck portion which opens outwardly;

said beam-to-post connectors are shaped to be inserted into an open end of said slot; and

said overhead beams each have a lowermost face with a single horizontal slot extending centrally therealong.

-28- (Amended)

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A furniture system as set forth in claim 27, wherein:

said adjustable leveling feet each include:

a base plate shaped to abut the floor surface;

an upright connected with and upstanding from said base plate, and shaped to be closely received in the hollow base of an associated one of said posts;

at least one retainer plate received in said slot of said one post; and

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at least one fastener extending laterally through said retainer plate and into said upright.

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-45- (Amended)

In post and beam furniture systems of the type having a plurality of overhead beams, and a plurality of vertical posts, each having a lower portion thereof adapted to be abuttingly supported on a floor surface of the open office space, and an upper portion thereof adapted to be connected with an associated one of said overhead beams, the improvement comprising:

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at least one X-post having an X-shaped plan configuration defining four mutually perpendicular, outwardly extending flanges, each of which has an end face with a single vertical slot extending centrally therealong for detachably interconnecting said posts and said beams in alternative configurations, and for mounting accessories at a variety of different locations; and wherein

each said slot has a generally T-shaped cross-sectional configuration with an enlarged interior track portion and a reduced neck portion which opens outwardly; and

said overhead beams each have a lowermost face with a single horizontal slot extending centrally therealong.